

English 471.001 Fall 2012

“Fatal Friendships and Tragic Triangles: Friendship, Betrayal and Tragic Love
In Early British Literature”

Course: English 471.001
Classroom: HL 305
Class Time: MWF 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Instructor: Dr. Connie Meyer
Office Location: 112
Office Hours: M/T/W/H 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Office Phone: (903) 886.5260
Office Fax: (903) 886.5980
University Email Address:
 connie.meyer@tamuc.edu
Course Website: course ecollege site at myleo



Required Texts:

- Greenblatt, Stephen. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Ninth Edition. Volume 1. New York: W.W Norton, 2012. ISBN 978-0-393-91247-0
- Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Course Description:

English 471 is intended as a survey of the major movements and authors of British literature up to the turn of the 17th century. We will discuss a variety of literary genres – including satire, poetry and drama – through the medieval era, renaissance era and early Enlightenment era. Students are expected to have a firm critical understanding of these genres.

The particular theme for this course is *Fatal Friendships and Tragic Triangles*. We will analyze the nature of friendship, betrayal and tragic love through the lens of this beautiful and powerful literature of the “scepter'd isle” that is Britain. This survey course will demonstrate how the early British literary tradition evolved over the years while exposing students to a myriad of British writing styles and genres. In many ways, the individual struggles of various British literary characters became representative of the more collective struggles of the nation, chronicling its rise to global eminence as a colonial power and its own struggles with identity afterwards.



Course Goals and Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be taught a broad overview of British literary history from *Beowulf*, thought to be written around the first half of the eighth century, to the work of Alexander Pope, published in 1728, will learn the major characteristics of each literary period in this time span, and will be able to compare these literary periods to one another

2. Students will be able to analyze the style, literary techniques, and themes of major British texts from the distant *Beowulf* to the work of Alexander Pope. They should be able to compare and contrast authors with one another and evaluate content, identify patterns and analyze conflicts and outcomes within their works through essays and written essay exams.

3. As they apply critical thinking skills to literary texts, students will analyze how British literature derives from and critiques the historical, cultural, and philosophical context of its day. Students will demonstrate how these interdisciplinary forces influence one another through classroom discussion, discussion posts, essays and essay exams.

4. Students will improve their writing skills, and learn to write reasoned and well-supported arguments about literary texts supported through the implementation of literary criticism. Students will learn to discern and implement relevant and credible secondary sources in structured research projects.

5. Students will learn to interact with other students through online discussion posts, construct and support opinions, answer and counter other claims with relevant support, and form broader arguments thereof.



Course Policies:

Please turn off cell phones and other disruptive devices, such as ipods, prior to class.

Because your active participation in discussions is expected, attendance is vital for success in this course. **After four absences your final grade will be lowered by a letter grade.** No late work will be accepted unless you make prior arrangements. Assigned readings must be completed before the start of class.

Although differing views and debate among class members are encouraged, I expect all students to treat other class members with respect and courtesy. Rudeness and insulting remarks will not be tolerated. I also try to foster an active, informal classroom atmosphere that further encourages free expression in regard to course selections. Please honor the spirit of this goal by keeping

discussion focused on the topic at hand and crosstalk to a minimum.





Some notes on academic integrity: All students are expected to comply with the university's policies regarding academic honesty. **The official departmental policy:** "Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of

Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3])

If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. They want you to avoid plagiarism, too, so they will help you do so whenever and wherever they can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism. Cheating on exams and quizzes will not be tolerated. Neither will plagiarism. While plagiarism was a form of compliment in much of the premodern world; it isn't at TAMU-Commerce in 2012. Plagiarism is any use of another person's work without giving credit to your source, including either someone's words (without putting it in quotations and providing a citation) or ideas. You need to cite your source for any information that is not common knowledge. Please ask if you are in any doubt. You may consider material given in lectures as "common knowledge." As with cheating on exams, plagiarism may result in *automatic failure* of this course.

Course Format

This is a discussion class. I will occasionally lecture to introduce new material or set background for the texts we read, but the greatest part of our class time will be spent in discussing the assigned reading together. Our discussions will allow students to learn from one another, and to have much more fun in the process! Some of the texts we are reading this semester are difficult, but I expect you to come to class having read the assignment thoroughly, and with notes on your observations and on any passages you did not understand. I recommend you review these notes right before class so you will be ready to participate fully.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

- 1) *Discussion Posts on ecollege - 20% of final grade*

Each discussion post response should fully engage with the discussion prompt, and should be supported with textual evidence from the assigned applicable reading. You should contribute your own response, which should be at least a paragraph in length, and then respond to 2 other student posts.

- 2) *Quizzes 10% of final grade*





- 3) *One essay 30% of final grade* which should include original readings on selected works (8-10 pages; a handout and further direction will be provided in class);
- 4) *A Midterm Exam. 15 % of final grade*
- 5) *A Final Exam. 15% of final grade*

These exams will be a combination of short answer questions, identification essays, and a longer essay. Identification essays ask you to look at a passage and identify what work it comes from and perform a reading of the passage that explains its thematic significance to that work. The best way to study is to keep up with the readings and mark passages that you think are important, and to take good notes during class discussions. We will do a few practice questions together in the week before the first exam. The final exam will *not* be comprehensive.

- 6) *Thorough class preparation and participation. 10% of final grade*

Your class participation grade will be based on your overall contribution to class discussions, both quality and quantity. Class participation also includes arriving punctually to class, bringing the relevant assigned reading with you, and acting respectfully toward the instructor and your fellow students.

Final Course Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Posts	20%
Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Essay:	30%
Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	15%

Scale used to compute final letter grades:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59-Below

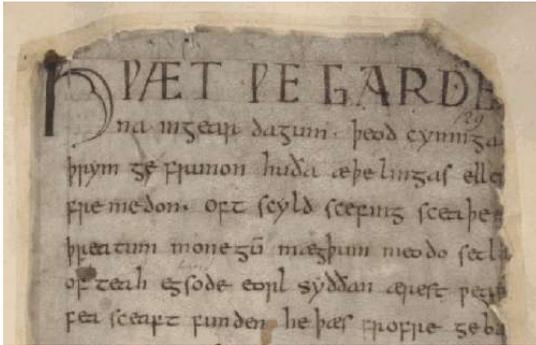
Final papers should conform to the MLA style guidelines. They should be double-spaced, using 12-point type, black ink, with normal (1") margins – approximately 300 words per page. Once again, no late papers will be accepted without my prior consent. It is wise to have a completed and polished hard copy of your essay in hand at least a day before the due date. You are encouraged to take advantage of the services offered at the writing center.



Additional Resources:

Writing Center

The Writing Center (or the “Communication Skills Center”) offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers.



The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. In order to ensure the most effective session possible, we offer visitors the following suggestions: (1) Get started on your writing project early, and visit the Writing Center at least one day before your final draft is due. You will need time to work with the ideas and suggestions generated in your tutorial sessions.

(2) Bring a written copy of your assignment, any relevant readings, and one or two specific questions or concerns you would like to discuss with us. We are located in the Hall of Languages, Room 103 (903-886-5280) and online at <http://web.tamuccommerce.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/>

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

On University-Sanctioned Activities

To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First-Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

